

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-15

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DRAFTED BY: S/S-O:RBELL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USCINCEUR PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 043035

EXDIS MIL ADDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA FROM AMEMBASSY AMMA
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DTD 23 FEB 1976 DTG P 231038Z FEB 76 RPTD QUOTE

S E C R E T AMMAN 0965

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS SECDEF (ISA/NESA) AND USCINCEUR
FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, JO, SA, US

SUBJECT: HAWK FINANCING

REF: AMMAN 0884 (NOTAL)

1. PRIME MINISTER INFORMED AMBASSADOR FEBRUARY 23 AND
CHIEF OF STAFF INFORMED DATT FEBRUARY 22 OF FOLLOWING
INFORMATION ON LATEST JORDANIAN EFFORTS TO OBTAIN
HAWK FINANCING FROM SAUDI ARABIA.

2. CHIEF OF ROYAL COURT MUDHAR BADRAN RETURNED TO
AMMAN FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, AFTER HAVING SEEN RINCE
FAHD IN RIDAYH. FAHD TOLD BADRAN THAT SAUDI ARABIA

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WOULD PAY FOR THE SYSTEM AND THAT FAHD NEEDED TO TALK

TO KING KHALID FIRST TO RECEIVE FINAL APPROVAL. FAHD TOLD BADRAN IN ADDITION THAT HE EXPECTED TO "FINALIZE" THE ARRANGEMENT ON "SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22" (SIC). SINCE SUNDAY JORDANIANS HAVE BEEN WAITING PATIENTLY FOR WORD WHICH, AS OF MORNING FEBRUARY 23, HAD NOT YET ARRIVED.

3. MESSAGE WHICH BADRAN CARRIED TO FAHD FROM KING SAID, ACCORDING TO PRIME MINISTER'S SUMMARY, THAT HUSSEIN IS COMMITTED TO AN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM FOR JORDAN. \$300 MILLION WHICH THE SAUDIS HAVE SUGGESTED THEY WILL PAY IS NOT SUFFICIENT TO PURCHASE THE US SYSTEM WHICH KING BELIEVES HE SHOULD HAVE. IF THE SAUDIS ARE ONLY WILLING TO PAY \$300 MILLION, JORDAN HAS NO FUNDS AND DOES NOT KNOW WHERE ELSE TO GET THEM. THUS IF SAUDI ARABIA INSISTS ON PAYING ONLY \$300 MILLION, SAUDI ARABIA WILL HAVE MADE THE DECISION TO FORCE JORDAN TO GO TO THE SOVIET UNION TO TRY TO PURCHASE AN EFFECTIVE SUSTEM. BUT THAT WILL BE A SAUDI, NOT A JORDANIAN DECISION.

4. RIFAI REMARKED THAT KING KHALID IS STILL HUNTING IN THE DESERT AND THAT JORDANIANS EXPECT SADAT TO JOIN HIM THERE IN THE COURSE OF SADAT'S CURRENT VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA.

PICKERING UNQTE INGERSOLL

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